

WITH BASEBALL IMMORTALS

Anecdotes and Stories of Heroes of the Diamond
Who Will Live Forever In the History
of America's National Game

BY BILLY MURPHY.

Tim Hurst, the veteran umpire, tells a good one on Bill Dahlen, one of the most famous ball players in the game, who formerly managed the Brooklyn Superbas. The tale concerns Dahlen's period of service with the Chicago Cubs under "Pop" Anson.

"Anson called Dahlen good and hard in a game I was umpiring in Chicago," said Hurst.

"Dahlen took it all without saying a word, but a few minutes later Dahlen remarked to me: 'Now, watch me bark that old fellow's shins.'"

"Anson was not as agile then as he was in his younger days and he stooped with much effort. All through the game Bill made great steps only to throw the ball a few feet in front of the bag, and it was

a person as McCarthy existed, and he left the park unnoticed. Naturally you all are wondering how Jack called Yeager safe when he was out three times.

When Bradley made his high throw, McCarthy figured that there was no chance to get Yeager at first.

But instead of standing on the base and jumping for the throw, Stovall ran back about fifteen feet and made the catch. Yeager had cut first base on his way to second, not figuring on Stovall's remarkable play.

Willie Keeler, who was coaching

er day described a ball game that has about as many funny features as any we have ever heard of.

"The game," said Mr. Comiskey, "was played in St. Louis in 1882, between the Browns and the Athletics."

In checking the baggage to Philadelphia, the wrong trunk was sent to St. Louis and the Athletics turned up with somebody's belongings, while the stranger, whoever he was, had their uniforms, and when the time came for the club to go out to Sportsman's Park, their uniforms had not arrived.

"The Athletics were a well-dressed bunch of players. Some of them were regular Beau Brummels and it did not appeal to them to play ball in their street clothes, particularly as a light shower was falling and the grass was wet."

"But the Browns had no extra uniforms in those days and the Athletics must play as they were dressed or not at all. They elected to play. The Athletics took their places on the field in 'bleed' shirts and straw hats and the capers that they cut set the crowd wild."

"Knouff and Fussellback were their battery, and while they were good enough to win an ordinary game, this was an extraordinary one."

"The Athletics hit George McGinnis for nine hits, but once on the bases they were done—they did not dare to take liberties in running."

Harry Stovey looped them up at first base, while Bunney Larkin managed to gather in nine out of eleven chances at second without splitting his clothes. Steve Corey was on third and Houck at short.

"The circus of that day was in left field, where 'Blondy' Purcell lived. Left field was wet and 'Blondy' attired in a light suit, white necktie and patent leather shoes, hesitated to take the plunge."

"Finally he rolled up his trousers and pranced about after such balls as came his way."

"Those who saw 'Blondy' that day remember his antics still, and those who did not see him but remember the man, can conjure up the immaculate 'Blondy' doing this stunt."

"Cub" Stricker and Coleman were in the other two fields. The first three innings failed to yield runs. We both scored two in the fourth inning leaving the score a tie. In the sixth inning Tom Dolan drew a free pass, went to second on Latham's out at first, and scored on my single.

Charley Comiskey, the "Noblest Roman of Them All," only the other

UPPER LEFT, Ty Cobb. Upper right, Eddie Collins. Center left, John Evers. Center right, Sam Crawford. Lower left, Charlie Doolin. Center right, Jimmy Callahan.

"That's the way the game ended—Browns, 3; Athletics, 2."

Charley Doolin of the Philadelphia Quakers tells how his young pitching star, Eppa Jephtha Rixey, Jr., took off ten pounds in a Pittsburgh hotel.

This is the way it happened: The management of the hotel declined to repair elevators on Sunday and for twenty-four hours not a wheel turned.

Now, Eppa was established on the ninth floor, together with Beals Becker and when he drifted in one Sunday night, he took it for granted that Beals was in the room.

With a muttered remark about the thoughtfulness of hotel proprietors, Eppa started to climb the nine weary flights of stairs.

Panting and drenched with perspiration, he tried the door of 914. Horrors! It was locked!

Why, oh, why, had he not asked for the key as he came through the office?

Painfully, Eppa trudged down nine flights to the office. The clerk smiled, sympathetically.

"Mr. Becker just took the key and I believe he started up that other stairway."

The weary collegian once more climbed the nine flights, comforting himself with the many things he would tell Becker once he reached the top. Buckets of woe! Becker was not at the top.

Again Rixey dragged his weary bones down those stairs. At the bottom he met Becker just starting up and collapsed in his arms.

BECKER HAD STOPPED FOR A DRINK OF WATER.

Becker explained that he had stopped to get a drink of water and the two trudged wearily up those nine flights of stairs to the feather.

is willing to sit down with a bunch of friends and recall the times that he has erred. It is this frankness, this willingness to acknowledge mistakes—and they all make 'em—that accounts for his popularity with the players.

Jack may be dead wrong on a decision, but the players do not hold it against him.

McCarthy believes that he holds the world's record for making a wrong decision. He admits having called a man safe who, by actual count, was put out three times on the play. It was not due to any lack of ability on his part, but due to one of those peculiar and unexpected situations that make baseball the most fascinating of pastimes.

In 1907 McCarthy was officiating on the bases in a close game between Cleveland and New York on the former's grounds. Jack Sheridan was working behind the bat.

It was the ninth inning and the score stood 1 to 0 in favor of Cleveland with two out. It so happened that Cleveland was fighting for the lead, and the home crowd naturally was not in a mood to give the umpires the benefit of the doubt. Frankly, they wanted a shade.

Joe Yeager of New York came to bat with two out. He rolled an easy grounder to Bill Bradley, the Cleveland third baseman. Bradley, with all the time in the world at his disposal, tossed the ball ten feet over George Stovall.

McCarthy, convinced that the sphere would not stop short of the bleachers, ran to second, expecting a play on Yeager at that base. Turning around, he saw Yeager hugging first, and naturally ruled him safe.

He was amazed to see Lajoie, the shortstop, and other infielders throwing away their gloves and starting for the club house.

There was an awful roar from the crowd.

"Say, Jack, you sure missed that one," said Lajoie, walking over to him. "Yeager was out three times. If they score a run in this inning we will have to carry you out of the park."

To make things as easy for McCarthy as possible, Lajoie picked up his glove and returned to second base. The other infielders followed his example, and the game was resumed with the stands in a turmoil.

Jimmie Williams smashed the next ball pitched to the right field fence for two bases, Yeager being

held at third. A single meant two runs, the game for New York and rough treatment for McCarthy.

Jack was the most unhappy person imaginable. He realized that he had slipped on the decision at first but was at a loss to account for it.

Jim McGuire, the next man to smother a line drive at Home, the same gent who is now pitching for Boston. Hess speared the drive with one hand, giving the game a spectacular finish.

Cleveland having triumphed, the fans, in their joy, forgot that such

at first, saw that it would be suicidal for Yeager to try to take second, and ran out in the diamond and stopped him by main strength. Yeager was out because of Keeler's interference. Before Yeager could return to the base Stovall ran back and touched it. This made out No. 2. Stovall then walked out and touched Yeager on the line, retiring him for the third time.

All this, of course, happened almost before you can bat an eye.

And Jack, poor geek, hustling down to second, was oblivious to the momentous series of events taking place behind his back.